

# GOING Off-trail



I don't know what it  
feels like to be a man.

I don't know if  
I am a man.

Does  
anyone?

"Man" is just  
one of the  
words I have  
chosen to  
describe myself.

It feels taboo to  
say, but for me, making  
active choices about my  
identity is important to me.

I don't know how typical my experience with queerness is.



It's a vital part not just of who I am, but how I experience the entire world.

I can't imagine being cis, no matter my physical body.



Whatever my gender, I have no interest in heterosexuality.

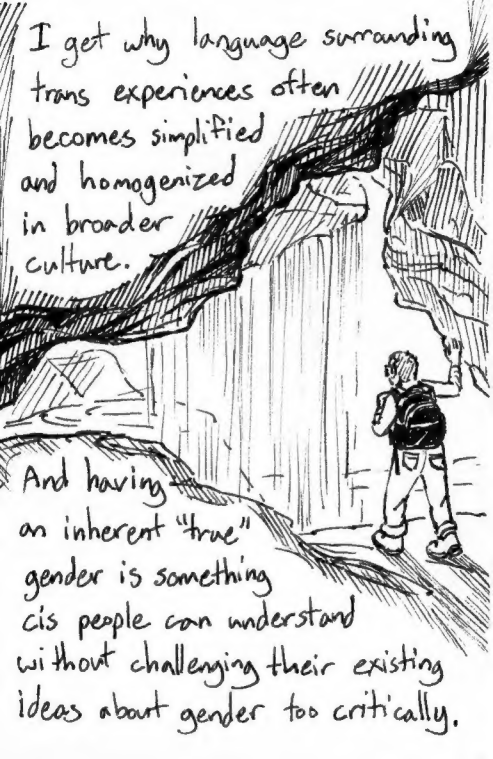
I don't think I can square the flexibility of my identities with the supposition that my gender and sexuality are pre-determined.



The common narrative that all trans people have always been their current gender isn't quite true for me.

I get why language surrounding trans experiences often becomes simplified and homogenized in broader culture.

And having an inherent "true" gender is something cis people can understand without challenging their existing ideas about gender too critically.



Personally, I'm not certain  
I've ever felt sure of my gender.

It's more  
in flux -

Something that  
shifts with my  
shifting body.

And it can be of  
many things at once.

It's approximate.

So if I am a man,  
it's because I say so.  
I define what that means.



And if I choose to  
deviate from the common path -  
I am simply creating  
my own course.

AY ON TOP



An autobio comic by shortsplitt

March 2021